

Zachary J. Tapocik

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Professional Summary

Self-taught UX Developer and Full-Stack Engineer with 4+ years of hands-on experience designing and building user-centered web applications. Skilled in both frontend and backend technologies, specializing in intuitive UI/UX design, responsive layouts, and scalable systems. Passionate about turning complex problems into simple, engaging experiences. Seeking a role where I can leverage my design thinking, technical expertise, and full project lifecycle experience to create impactful digital products.

Core Skills

Frontend Development:	HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript (ES6+), React, Vue.js, Angular, Next.js, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS, SCSS
Backend Development:	Node.js, Express.js, Python, Django, FastAPI, REST APIs, GraphQL, WebSockets
Databases:	PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Firebase, Redis
UX / UI Design:	Figma, Adobe XD, Wireframing, Prototyping, Usability Testing, Accessibility (WCAG)
DevOps & Cloud:	Docker, AWS, Google Cloud, Vercel, CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Nginx
Tools & Workflow:	Git, GitHub, Agile/Scrum, Jira, Trello, Chrome DevTools, Lighthouse

Professional Experience

Freelance UX Developer / Full-Stack Engineer

Self-Employed — Pittsburgh, PA | 2019 – Present

- Designed, developed, and deployed multiple responsive web applications, handling full project lifecycle from wireframes to production.
- Created intuitive user flows and interactive prototypes, conducting usability testing to refine user experience.
- Built scalable backends with Node.js and Django, integrating REST and GraphQL APIs with robust authentication and database schemas.
- Improved performance and accessibility of client websites, achieving Lighthouse scores of 90+.
- Deployed production environments with Docker and Vercel, automated workflows with GitHub Actions CI/CD pipelines.
- Collaborated with clients to translate business needs into technical solutions, ensuring on-time delivery.

Projects

- Houndslight.online (Portfolio Site): Designed and coded a personal brand website showcasing UX/UI capabilities, frontend engineering, and full-stack project deployments.
- Job Tracker App: Full-stack application for managing job applications with account system, CRUD features, and REST API backend.
- Netflix Clone (h0stream): Video streaming web app with authentication, custom player, and responsive design using React, Node.js, and MongoDB.

Education & Certifications

- Meta Front-End Development Certificate – Meta (Coursera)
- Google IT Support Fundamentals – Google
- DevOps Foundations – (if applicable)
- Continuous self-learning via open-source contributions and online courses

Professional Traits

- Strong communicator with ability to bridge design and development teams
- User-focused mindset: accessibility, performance, and usability as top priorities
- Quick learner, adaptable across tech stacks and frameworks
- Highly organized, detail-oriented, and accountable for project outcomes